FALSE MEMORY AND REPRESSION

- **List Learning Paradigm**
  - Deese (1959)
  - Roediger & McDermott (1995)

- **Interest In False Memories**
  - Dates back to William James (1890)
  - Theme of this work = Memory as reconstruction rather than reproduction.

EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE FOR THE CREATION OF FALSE MEMORIES

Loftus & Palmer -- Misinformation Effect

- **Methodology**

- **Conclusions/Findings:**
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ORIGINAL MEMORY FOR THE EVENT POSTEVENT INFORMATION & SUGGESTIBILITY

- **Alteration Position:**

- **Coexistence Position:**

- **Gap Filling Strategy:**

- **Retrieval difficulties as a result of source monitoring:**

- **Source Monitoring Errors:**

**LOFTUS & PALMER -- MISINFORMATION EFFECT**

- **Criticisms**

**Observer vs. Participant: Goodman & Tobey (1992)**

- **2 conditions of interest:** 4 year olds
  - **participant:** spent approximately 13 minutes playing with the babysitter.
  - **observer:** spent approximately 12 minutes looking at the screen as the film of the interaction played

- **Results:** interviewed after an 11-day delay.
  - **Participation**

- **Observers**
Observer vs. Participant

- **Stress and Expertise** (Stanny & Johnson, 2000, pp. 236-237) confounds the participant-observer variable with the expertise.

Longevity and/ or Strength of False Memories

- **Jean Piaget’s (1962)** earliest memories at age 2

**EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE FOR CREATION OF FALSE MEMORIES FOR AN ENTIRE EVENT**

- Ceci, Huffman (Crotteau), Smith, & Loftus, 1994: Mouse Trap Study
- Loftus & Pickrell, Loftus & Coan, or Loftus & Ketcham (1994): shopping mall experiment
- Pezdek, 1995: enema experiment
- Hyman & Pentland (1996): punchbowl wedding study
- Mazzoni, Loftus, Kirsch (2001): possessed by demons study

**Shopping Mall & Enema Experiment**

(Pezdek, 1995b)

- **Pilot results** of actual memories that people have of these 2 events:

- **Results**: False memories of these 2 events
Hyman & Pentland (1996)

- Some background:
  - Researchers have found a significant correlation ($r = .36$) between 
    measure of imagery vividness and hypnotizability) and ______________

- Guided mental imagery

- Imagination Inflation

Hyman & Pentland (1996): Procedure

- Parents provided events that their son or daughter had experienced 
  before the age of 6 years.

- Three memory interviews scheduled one day apart:

- Results:
Mazzoni, Loftus, & Kirsch (2001)

- **Implausible Event**: seeing someone possessed by demons.
- **Procedure used to increase plausibility:**

Mazzoni et al. (2001): 3-stage Process By Which FMs Emerge

- 1st stage:

- 2nd stage:

- 3rd stage:

Memory Distortion in People Reporting Abduction by Aliens


**Method**:
- **3 groups of people:**
  - Reported recovered memories of alien abduction
  - People who believe they were abducted, but have no memories.
  - People who deny having been abducted by aliens.

- DRM paradigm
Memory Distortion in People Reporting Abduction by Aliens

- **The Modal Abductee:**
  - *Sleep paralysis:*
    - full-body paralysis
    - hallucinations:

- **Results:**

  **REPRESSION**

  Does Exists Repression?

  - During the 1980s and 1990s, a large number of high profile cases of adults claiming that they had recovered memories of sexual and/or satanic ritual abuse they had repressed during childhood. More than 800 lawsuits were reported by January 1996?

  - “At the root of these claims is the belief that memory is always accurate, and that memories can be repressed--that one can bury traumatic experience in some crypt of the brain, forget it consciously, and then recover it in pristine form years or decades later.” (Neimark, 1996)

  - “This two-pronged view of memory, imported (and distorted) from Freud into the popular culture, has been embraced by a whole sector of America, from therapists to police detectives to the tens of thousands of adult women who read *The Courage To Heal*, often dubbed the **bible of the recovered memory movement.**” (Neimark, 1996)

  **RECOVERED MEMORY THERAPY**
• **The Courage to Heal** (Bass & Davis, 1988)

• **Memory Recovery Techniques:**
  • Hypnosis
  • Age Regression
  • Guided Imagery
  • Journaling
  • Body Memories

  **Davis, Loftus, & Folette** (2001)

• Commentary: How, when, & whether to use informed consent for recovered memory therapy.

• The risk of developing false memories (FMs):
  • Confirmation Bias
  • Leading questions
  • Power of Belief
    • Hindsight bias
    • False confessions

• **Dangers of Memory Recovery Techniques**

• Is informed consent the solution?

  **PROBLEMS WITH RESEARCH ON REPRESSION**
**Before you can prove repression has occurred you must:**

- Be able to verify that

- Demonstrate that the memory was truly repressed.

**Recommendations for solving these problems:**

- Identify individuals on the ___________________________ of trauma and then question them to determine whether they ___________________________.

**Quotes About Elizabeth Loftus**

*Proponents Of Repression Who Coined The Nonscientific Label: False Memory Syndrome*

You are only responsible for the gist of these quotes: don’t write them all down.

- The therapist that you will see in the video view Loftus as the Leader of the False Memory Movement.

**Video of Supporters of The Existence Of Repression**

- Note: to date there is no reliable or valid research indicating the repression does exists.

- Of course we may lack the methods to study repression appropriately.